

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-5 and 14-18 without prejudice or disclaimer, and please enter new claims 24-35 as set forth in the complete listing of the claims that follows. The following complete listing of the claims replaces any previous claim listing.

1-23 (Cancelled).

24 (New). A method for identifying a candidate therapeutic for fat reduction, which comprises:

determining whether a test molecule that interacts *in vitro* with (i) a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or (ii) a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 reduces fat deposition;

whereby a test molecule that reduces fat deposition is identified as a candidate therapeutic for fat reduction.

25 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid comprises a guanine at position 7328, a thymine at position 9182, or a guanine at position 7328 and a thymine at position 9182 in SEQ ID NO: 1.

26 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein the test molecule is an organic molecule.

27 (New). The method of claim 24, wherein the test molecule is a nucleic acid.

28 (New). A method for reducing fat deposition in a subject, which comprises administering a candidate therapeutic of claim 24 to a subject in need thereof, whereby the candidate therapeutic reduces fat deposition in the subject.

29 (New). A method for identifying a candidate therapeutic for treating non-insulin diabetes dependent mellitus (NIDDM), which comprises:

determining whether a test molecule that interacts *in vitro* with (i) a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or (ii) a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 modulates a NIDDM symptom;

whereby a test molecule that modulates a NIDDM symptom is identified as a candidate therapeutic for treating NIDDM.

30 (New). The method of claim 29, wherein the NIDDM symptom is insulin sensitivity.

31 (New). The method of claim 29, wherein the NIDDM symptom is glucose uptake.

32 (New). The method of claim 29, wherein the test molecule is an organic molecule.

33 (New). The method of claim 29, wherein the test molecule is a nucleic acid.

34 (New). The method of claim 29, wherein the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid comprises a cytosine at position 7256 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

35 (New). A method for treating NIDDM in a subject, which comprises administering a candidate therapeutic of claim 29 to the subject in need thereof, whereby the candidate therapeutic treats NIDDM in the subject.